Volume 24, No. 20, August 04, 2017

Nation

Indigenous Games

Inking the Agreement

A Personal Tribute

Health & Technology

$2.50
Canada Post Publication No. 40015005

Free in Eeyou Istchee
Serving Eeyou Istchee since 1993

NISHIIYUU COUNCIL OF ELDERS
CULTURAL GATHERING
N.C.O.E

AUGUST 22-25, 2017
EASTMAIN SPORTS COMPLEX

NCOE.CA

CONTACT:
STELLA M. BEARSKIN
819.855.6690
NCOE.CA@GMAIL.COM

SPECIAL GUESTS
DAVID HART & TANTOO CARDINAL

airCreebec

REZDUDE.CA : DESIGN

Hosted by

Partners

Sponsors

Indigenous and Northern Affairs

CONTENTS

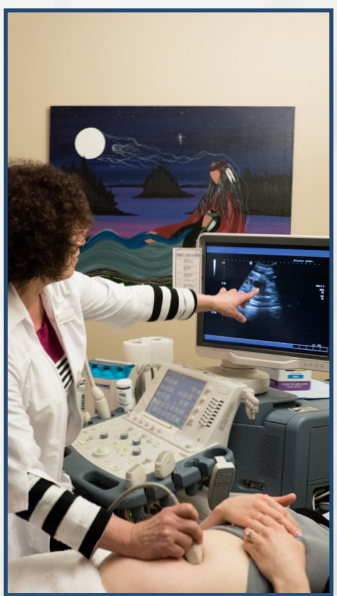
6 | Keeping hope

10 | Strong showing at NAIG

20 | Governance Agreement signing

25 | A tribute to Grand Chief Coon Come

34 | Helping homes



28 | Health tech

EDITORIAL

Electoral changes 4

NEWS

Engines of growth 5

MMIWG inquiry stumbles 6

IN BRIEF 9

FEATURES

Heavy medals 10

10 years in the making 20

A personal tribute 25

Telehealth 28

Washkahagun Wechihitowin 34

Old school skills 39

REZ NOTES

Road trip for dummies 41

UTNS

Nothing like a great cup of coffee 42

Photo provided by NAIG

Electoral changes

by Will Nicholls

This year's elections for Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief was handled differently than in the past. There have certainly been many changes over the past decades in the way we choose our leaders. It's only been since the 1970s that we have had a regional governing body for the Cree with a Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief. It's a process that depends heavily on the person the Grand Council of the Crees appoints to run the election.

There have been some new wrinkles in the process that I do not feel reflect the traditions or culture of the Cree. An emphasis on secrecy has come to tarnish what was once a far more transparent democratic exercise.

This year, the Cree and their media outlets were deprived of information about who had been nominated until those people accepted or declined to run. This was not done in the past. Was there a need for Cree voters to know? Yes, as they could have encouraged or discouraged those nominated. Some of those who declined may have accepted if they thought they had enough support through interested voters, volunteers to help them, offers of services or products and funding.

Transparency should be the norm in a democratic electoral system. Former chief electoral officer Kenny Loon always released the names when the deadline for nominations passed. That is understandable as people were already comparing notes on social media and piecing together the lists of nominations. This year, only a select group of Cree knew who had been nominated, which frustrated voters.

Another problem this election season was a lack of a central, and coherent, information source. Yes, we knew about the advance and election-day polls, and where to vote. What about mail-in ballots, e-ballots, bush radio ballots and phone-in ballots? Was there a traveling poll to allow elderly or handicapped voters to participate? Should there be? During the Cree referendum on whether or not to stay in Canada or go with Quebec during the 1995 campaign on sovereignty, great measures were taken to ensure that all eligible Cree voters, wherever they were, had the opportunity to participate in deciding the future of the Cree Nation.

Information released by the current chief electoral officer about election-day voting was disappointing. It's a mystery why usual data points were not made available. We don't know how many voters were eligible to vote in comparison to those who exercised their right, which is a crucial element in judging the health of our democracy.

On each election night, when polling stations would report in the results, they would only be visible for a few minutes. Looking for results in different communities was akin to searching for a needle in a haystack. No results were passed on to any Cree media.

On behalf of *the Nation*, I requested we be sent results on second-round voting as polls reported. Initially, some were sent, though more than an hour late. Then nothing. I eventually stopped checking my emails thinking that I wasn't going to receive anything. CBC Cree Media told me that they never even received a response to their requests from the chief electoral officer.

There needs to be a relationship developed with Cree media during both regional and local Cree elections. Many voters follow Cree media and we have the experience to handle the information flow as well as any mainstream media during federal or provincial elections. Yes, social media and new technologies have an important part to play, but it must not be the primary method used to deliver information to voters.

We need tools and clearly expressed rules to ensure democracy is transparent, fair and easily accessible. At a time that we aspire to fully govern ourselves, the Cree electoral system must also evolve in order to ensure accessibility, fairness and transparency. This will be an important task for the new Grand Council leadership, and we hope to see higher democratic standards in place for future elections.

GRAND CHIEF	Ballots	Percentage
Abel Bosum	3157	56%
Rodney Mark	2490	44%

DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF	Ballots	Percentage
Mandy Gull	2933	52%
John Matoush	2102	48%

the Nation is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications **EDITORIAL BOARD** L. Stewart, W. Nicholls, M. Siberok, Mr. N. Diamond, E. Webb **EDITOR IN CHIEF** Will Nicholls **DIRECTOR OF FINANCES** Linda Ludwick **EDITORS** Lyle Stewart, Martin Siberok **PRODUCTION AND SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR** Dan Isaac **CONTRIBUTING WRITERS** S. Orr, X. Kataquapit, D. Isaac, J. Grant, A. German, J. Staniforth, B. Powless **DESIGN** Matthew Dessner **SALES AND ADVERTISING** Danielle Valade, Wendall Gull **THANKS TO: Air Creebec**

CONTACT US: The Nation, 4529 CLARK, #403, Montreal, QC., H2T 2T3 **EDITORIAL & ADS:** Tel.: 514-272-3077, Fax: 514-278-9914 **HEAD OFFICE:** P.O. Box 151, Chisasibi, QC. J0M 1E0 www.nationnews.ca **EDITORIAL:** nation@nationnews.ca news@nationnews.ca **ADS:** Danielle Valade: ads@nationnews.ca Wendall Gull: wendall@nationnews.ca Mike Ryan: sales@nationnews.ca **SUBSCRIPTIONS:** $60 plus taxes, US: $90, Abroad: $110, Payable to beesum communications, all rights reserved, publication mail #40015005, issn #1206-2642 **The Nation is a member of:** The James Bay Cree Communications Society, Circle Of Aboriginal Controlled Publishers, Magazines Canada Quebec Community Newspaper Assn. Canadian Newspapers Assn. Les Hebdos Sélect Du Québec. Funded [in part] by the Government of Canada.

Funded by the Government of Canada | Canada Magazines Canada CMCA AUDITED QCNA AJRQ

Engines of growth | BoC and CreeCo host second annual AGA in Wemindji

by Joshua Grant

The Board of Compensation (BoC) and CreeCo held their second annual general assembly July 12-13 in Wemindji. Those in attendance heard detailed reports on the various enterprises under the CreeCo portfolio and positive news regarding the BoC.

"At the Board of Compensation, we are happy to report that the stock market portfolio has reached all-time highs of over $129 million in the Regular Fund," Chairman Rusty Cheezo told *the Nation*. "The Growth Fund market value is over $88 million, almost six times the initial investment of $15 million in 1995."

To keep things interesting at this year's AGA, Cheezo said that informative history was mixed into the agenda with the general reports and activities from last year. There were also roundtable discussions where Crees could raise their concerns and discuss with board members and company presidents while notetakers jotted down what was mentioned.

"All participants were very concerned with the housing issue," Cheezo observed. "And using the funds that we have to leverage and make an impact were ideas that have been raised on many occasions, not just at our assembly."

Cheezo reports that delegates were interested in using investment funds to benefit community growth in the form of guarantees or loans.

While the chairman said that questions about home and auto insurance are frequently brought up, that file is currently sitting with the Cree Nation Government. BoC/CreeCo are willing to collaborate if requested by the participants of the program.

Cheezo also added that comments from the roundtable discussion will be looked at by the executive committee before being transferred to their "think tank," which evaluates whether or not the structure of certain companies need to be modified to be more effective or efficient.

Asked which companies under the CreeCo umbrella are growing and if any are downsizing, Cheezo mentioned Air Creebec, celebrating its 35th anniversary while growing significantly, enhancing its services and developing key partnerships such as the medevac service in collaboration with Propair.

According to Cheezo, Gestion ADC (catering and janitorial services) has also been expanding, better meeting the needs of its existing clientele and providing much-needed services to the mining sector. The company has also been forging beneficial partnerships with communities and individuals in Eeyou Istchee that see 100% of the profits from those projects consolidated back into CreeCo.

On the downsizing side, Cheezo noted that Cree Construction has become "leaner and more efficient" as it adjusts to a more competitive industry where clients are demanding more value for their money. He insists that results are getting better as they "adapt to the new normal" in construction.

Finally, Cheezo was excited to share that Eenou Eeyou Realty Properties has interesting projects, including a potential high-rise development at its property on Duke Street in Montreal.

"We are very proud of all of our companies and partnerships under CreeCo," he said. "Some [not mentioned here] are quietly going about their business and generating profits for the group year after year."

Cheezo stressed that Crees want details on how their money is being spent and how crucial issues are being addressed.

"We have been listening to community members' requests for more reporting," he said. "When we held our community tours in 2014, one of the overwhelming comments was the appreciation for the detailed information being provided."

In conclusion, Cheezo encouraged job seekers and students to visit creeco.ca for potential opportunities in the coming year.

"All of our companies are committed to providing meaningful Cree employment, and on our site we list job postings available in the companies," he said. "CreeCo's scholarship program is available to students studying in the fields related to our companies and the Board of Compensation Incentive Awards for graduates are ongoing with the recipients selected in collaboration with the Cree School Board."

Cheezo thanked Chief Dennis Georgekish and the community of Wemindji for their hospitality during this year's AGA and said that a resolution was passed on the location of next year's assembly which represents a "significant milestone".

Next year will mark the 40th anniversary of the BoC, with the third annual AGA to be held in Eastmain.

AUTO
GAREAU
Val-d'Or
GMC
Great new packages available!
Choose your deal
on our new 2017 pickups!
0% financing up to 72 months OR Rebates up to $10,000
1100, 3e Avenue Est, Val-d'Or, QC J3P 4P8
Tel: (819) 825-6880 1-877-625-6880 Fax: (819) 825-8980
Visit us online at gareauauto.ca
Like us on facebook
Frédéric Provencher and Jean-Claude Moreau our bilingual Sales Representatives, will welcome you. We pay for your hotel room when you pick up your vehicle. We can deliver it to you too.
We always have lightly used Yukons and Suburbans

MMIWG inquiry stumbles

by Dan Isaac | Photo by Trish Chiasson

In the wake of high profile resignations, families try to keep hope in MMIWG Inquiry

When the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) was announced by the Trudeau government last August and launched a month later, there was a genuine sense of hope. Some families had been waiting decades for answers to the epidemic of violence and murder – and mystery. But a year into the inquiry's mandate and that hope has been shaken.

In May, the Native Woman's Association of Canada gave failing grades in 10 of the 15 categories it examined in its "Report Card assessing the success of the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Women and Girls."

Then reports surfaced of families calling the inquiry's 1-800 number only to be left waiting indefinitely for a response. "There are several people who called last January who still haven't had anyone get back to them," an anonymous source told the CBC's Neil Macdonald.

From May 30 to June 2, the first public hearing was held in Whitehorse, Yukon. Lorelei Williams, an Indigenous activist and family member of two victims, was apprehensive and a bit confused over its approach. "I had no or little hope in the inquiry, I was feeling frustrated just before I went up to Whitehorse," she said.

That was before she realized the first hearing was to take place in a tent. An earthquake cracked the roof of the original venue 10 days before the hearings were slated to start. After the quake the community came together to create a makeshift shelter – a fact only people in attendance were aware of.

"If I was home in Vancouver and heard they were holding the hearings in a tent, I would be upset. But being up there I knew it was either that or cancel the hearings," Williams told *The Nation*. "Other families weren't told this. It's that lack of communication and transparency that's upsetting families. These things seem small but they're actually huge."

While in Whitehorse, Williams helped a friend who had survived an attempt on her life to testify in front of two commissioners. She was also able to connect with some inquiry staff members. She was even approached by then executive director Michele Moreau.

"After Whitehorse I slowly regained my hope in the inquiry. I saw everything with my own eyes and all of my questions and concerns answered," said Williams. "Michele wanted to get a letter from me stating my concerns too."

But upon her return to Vancouver, Williams' renewed confidence was rocked again by the announcement that Moreau would be stepping down as executive director effective July 21, citing personal reasons.

"She reached out to me and now she's resigning?" asked Williams. "If I was to apply for a job with the national inquiry, I'd know that it would be for the long run, I'd have to make that commitment. There's obviously something wrong, and it's not that she's moving on to a better job."

In June, three other prominent staffers resigned: Chantale Courcy, director of operations; Sue Montgomery, director of communications; and Tanya Kappo (a founding organizer of IdleNoMore), manager of community relations.

Then on July 11 the inquiry lost its first commissioner. Marilyn Poitras, a Métis law professor at the University of Saskatchewan, resigned in a letter addressed to Prime Minister Trudeau and Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett. She's also the first to speak publicly about her decision to leave the inquiry.

"If it's a commission set up for hearings, to hear family stories, it's going to be successful," Poitras told the CBC. "But it's not going to get at the roots of systemic violence. I don't know how it's going to do that."

Since the departures, some Indigenous leaders have called for the resignation of the chief commissioner of the inquiry, Marion Buller. A Manitoba group representing family members called for all the commissioners to be removed and for the inquiry to start anew.

People like Williams feel caught in the middle.

"I understand why they're calling for a reset, I do," she said. "But I feel like this is probably all we're going to get. This is what we have to work with so we have to figure out how to make this inquiry successful."

According to Williams and Poitras, following Indigenous protocol is paramount. In her resignation letter, Poitras said the inquiry putting a colonial model first was a key factor in her decision to leave.

"They need to include more ceremony and more Elders. At the hearings, there was a room full of medicines, but there wasn't anyone in the room there to smudge you," said Williams. "After these families are done testifying they're just left there. They have support workers, but ceremony needs to be a huge part of it."

Families of victims are both concerned and confused about what's going to happen. "The community is talking and I don't know who to trust, what to believe, I just don't know. I wish they would just come out and say what's going on," pleaded Williams. "They have to get it together because the lives of our women and girls depend on it."

THE MARKETPLACE

Contact Danielle Valade at 514-272-3077 or ads@nationnews.ca to advertise

Are you an Aboriginal victim of police abuse?
We can help!

Services Parajudiciaires Autochtones du Québec
Native Para-judicial Services of Quebec

1-888-844-2094
pav@spaq.qc.ca
www.spaq.qc.ca

UNIGLOBE One Travel

CREE NATION Holyland Pilgrimage
Escorted by Lance Cooper

November 20-30th 2017

$3795.00 CDN includes
Round trip air/hotel accommodation/touring/two meals daily
insurance and tax

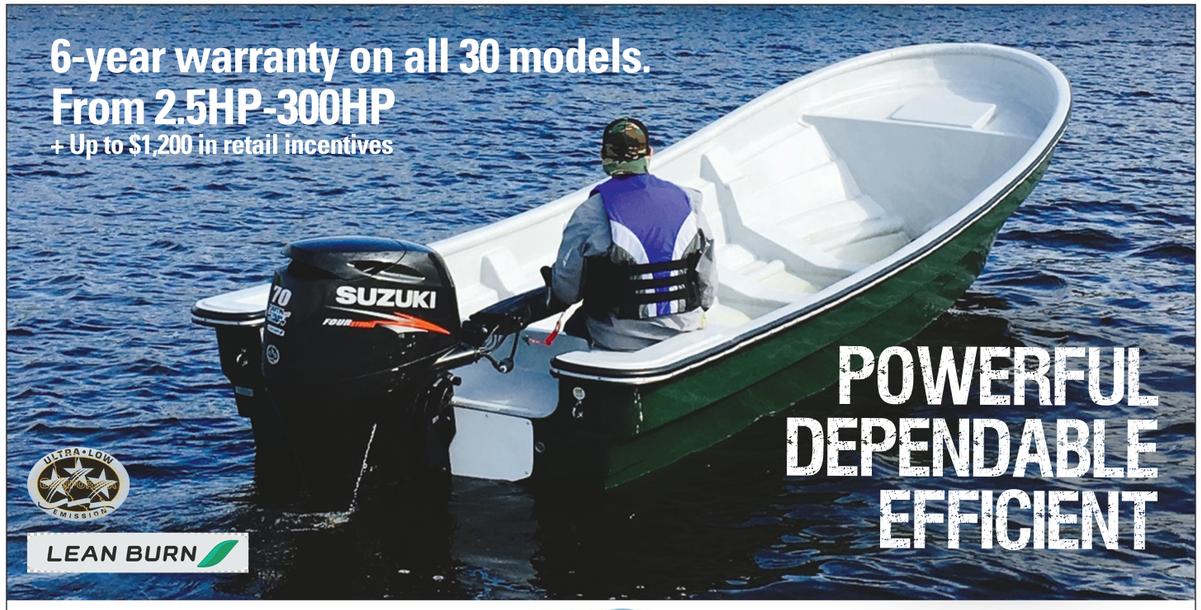
Contact:
nealc@uniglobeone.com
lancepcooper@hotmail.com

NEW

10 ads
5 months of visibility

A page filled with little ad spaces, enough to be seen by our readers without breaking the bank!

- **Ad sizes:** 1.75 x 1.75 inches; you can combine up to two spaces horizontally or vertically
- **Price:** $396 for a single space package, or only $39.60 per ad
  $792 for a double space package or only $79.20 per ad



MARTIN TOUT TERRAIN
Val-d'Or, QC 819-824-4575
martintoutterrain.com

L'EXPERT MARINE
Alma, QC 418-769-3433
lexpertmarine.com

SUZUKI

Way of Life!

Retail Incentives & Additional SPP coverage available on select new and unregistered Suzuki Marine Outboard Motors purchased at a participating Canadian Dealer between April 1st, 2017 to June 30th, 2017. Suzuki Retail incentives are direct-to-dealer incentives deducted from the MSRP. Retail incentives from $50 (DF2.5SJ) up to $1,500 (DF300AS) on select models. SPP warranty listed includes 36 month factory limited warranty plus an additional warranty, coverage to total listed SPP coverage on select models. Warranty and SPP warranty offered has no dollar value and cannot be exchanged or resold for any monetary value. Model may not be exactly as shown. MSRP and promotion may change without notice. This promotion is time limited and certain conditions may apply, please see your participating Canadian dealer for complete details. Offer cannot be combined with any other special offers, promotions or financing incentives unless specified. PDI charges from $133 to $628, freight charges of $48 up to $115, taxes, license, insurance, applicable fees and registration are extra dependent on model. Specifications, product features and colours are subject to change without notice. Read your owner's manual carefully and remember to observe all safety regulations. See your participating Authorized Suzuki dealer for availability and complete details. Suzuki Way of Life!

In Brief

Walk for **cancer research**

Solomon Awashish, a 64-year-old Cree from Mistissini, is fundraising for cancer research. He intends to walk 148 kilometres from Oujé-Bougoumou to Mistissini over five-to-seven days, depending on the weather, starting August 21. He hopes to raise $9000 for the Cancer Research Society before his departure.

Awashish credits his family as his inspiration for the walk. He lost his father to cancer, his wife is a cancer survivor, and his brother is currently battling cancer. And while Awashish, who has arthrosis in both knees, expects pain on the trek he knows it's nothing compared to what cancer patients receiving treatment have to go through.

He also believes he'll have no shortage of support. To donate to Solomon Awashish's campaign search his name at www.crs-src.ca

"Research is our only hope to prevent, treat and, one day, find a cure for cancer. Through research, cancer treatment has come a long way," said Awashish.

Waskaganish **election results**

Samson Wischee will be Waskaganish's new deputy chief after beating fellow candidate Susan Esau by 68 votes in a community election held at Neepsee Plaza July 12. Wischee takes over the position from Thomas Hester with 55.18% of the total vote.

The election also featured races for four positions on the band council

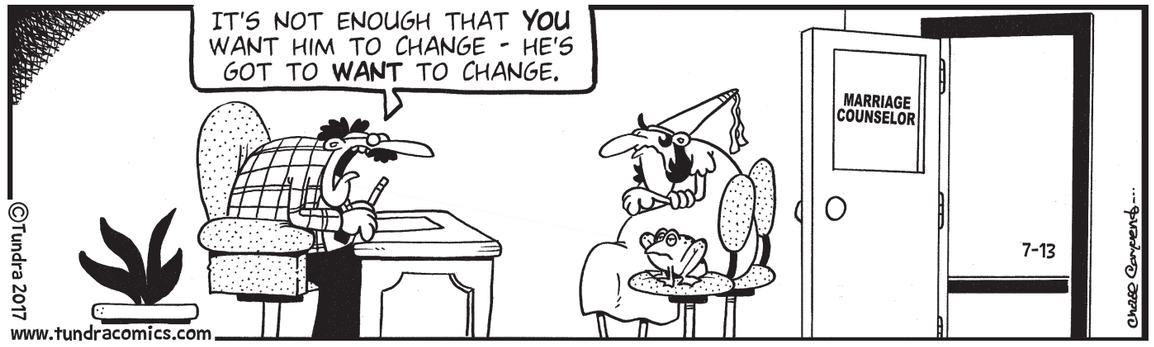
New band councillors will be Brenda Hester (12.75%), Gordon J. Blackned (12.22%), Gordon Blueboy (10.69%) and Jimmy T Whiskeychan (10.53%). They will serve a four-year term on council.

Drug bust in **Attawapiskat**

On July 17, Nishnawbe-Aski police officers seized methamphetamine pills with an estimated northern street value of $20,000, along with a small amount of marijuana, alcohol and cash totaling approximately another $500 at the local airport.

Larry Edwards, a 31-year-old resident of Attawapiskat, has been charged with possession with intent to sell in connection with the seizure and possession of the proceeds of crime. Edwards was released on condition that he appear in Attawapiskat court on September 27.

"This is great work by the officers working on the ground in the community and given the size of the seizure it will have a significant positive impact," said Chris Lawrence, Detective Staff Sergeant of the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service Specialized Units. "Unfortunately it also highlights the scope of the drug problem currently faced by communities across the country."


IT'S NOT ENOUGH THAT YOU WANT HIM TO CHANGE - HE'S GOT TO WANT TO CHANGE.
MARRIAGE COUNSELOR
7-13
©Tundra 2017
www.tundracomics.com

Strong showing by **Cree youth** in the 2017 North American Indigenous Games

by Jesse Staniforth | Photos provided by NAIG & Gabriel Rabbitskin

HEAVY_MEDALS

The North American Indigenous Games

(NAIG) took place in Toronto July 17-21, but for participating athletes, the preparation stretched back a whole year.

The final stage of the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) took place in Toronto July 17-21, but for participating athletes, the preparation stretched back a whole year.

More than 20 Cree athletes competed across a variety of sports as part of Quebec's Eastern Door and North (EDN) team, helping EDN come in fourth overall after BC, Saskatchewan and Ontario. EDN brought home a total of 77 medals – 22 gold, 36 silver and 19 bronze.

Waskaganish's Sylvester Moar, 14, was point-guard for the EDN basketball team, who fell a point short of a bronze medal in a fiercely fought semi-final game. He was sad to lose by such a small margin, but is looking to the future.

"We've been training hard all year," Moar said. "I'm going to play again next year – and keep trying my best to be a better basketball player."

Moar first tried out for the EDN team last year, and since then he's been focused on basketball. In the lead-up to the NAIG, different EDN teams had been competing all over the province to sharpen their skills. In Moar's case, the basketball team tried its luck against high-school and college basketballers in Montreal.

"They were much older guys than us, and they beat

the hell out of us!" Moar laughed. "But it made us stronger."

Elijah Awashish is the father of twin swimmers Cedric and Caleb Awashish, 16, who helped the EDN's swim team win 11 of its 14 medals.

"They were very excited to compete for EDN, though they weren't able to determine exactly who the other competitors were," Elijah explained. "It was their first time there, and there are a lot of competitive clubs out west – BC and Alberta. They seem to have a lot more swimmers. I think the sport is more developed out there, or maybe the Native communities have more access to swimming clubs and programs. But my two were excited. They found out last year that they'd qualified for the team, so they've been training for a whole year."

Elijah noted that the boys had been lucky to grow up in Mistissini, close to Chibougamau, which has a swim-club and coaches they could rely on.

"They're really passionate about swimming, and they have access to

Quebec's Eastern Door and North team brought home a **total of 77 medals** – 22 gold, 36 silver and 19 bronze.

> *"In Mistissini we have the lake, so you can jump off the dock and swim around, but there aren't that many swimmers"*
>
> *- Gabriel Rabbitskin, competitive swimmer*

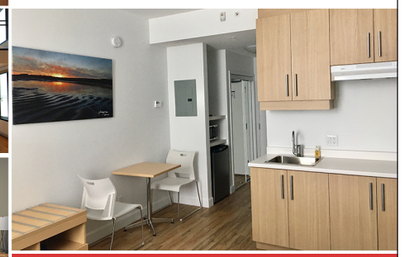
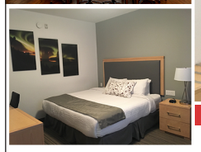
training and coaching," he said. "It's something they really enjoy doing, and they train up to six days a week, 12 to 15 hours weekly in the water. "

While traditionally swimming was not a typical Cree sport, that's changing with the introduction of pools into the communities – especially those where it's too cold to swim in lakes during the summer.

"In Mistissini we have the lake, so you can jump off the dock and swim around, but there aren't that many swimmers," said Gabriel Rabbitskin, a competitive swimmer originally from Mistissini who coached the EDN team. "It's not something we've really discovered yet as a major passion for the youth. But now it's coming around and people are getting more interested. Most of the Cree communities are getting their own pools now. It's nice to see the bands across the Cree Nation starting to invest in more diverse sports and hobbies for all the people from the communities to enjoy, and find their own passions."

Rabbitskin has been a swimming competitor for a number of years – he ended his career with a final competition the same weekend as the NAIG opening ceremonies – and he started a swim program in Mistissini to teach the sport to youths, adults and Elders. Elijah Awashish credits him as an enormous inspiration to the community, as well as on Cedric and Caleb specifically.

Rabbitskin, meanwhile, is equally proud of the Awashish boys, whom he described as a

Happy 1st Birthday
Hotel Waastooskuun!

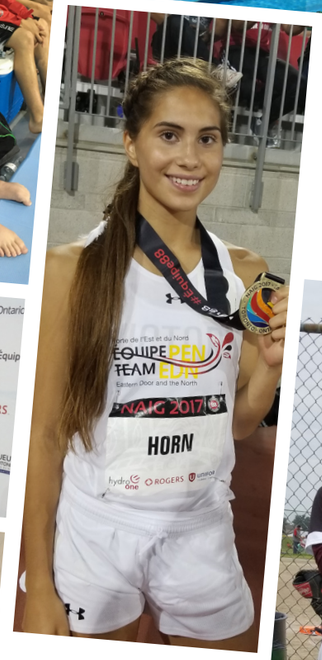
Come and experience a night at Hotel Waastooskuun.

You will be delighted with our gift of a 20% discount special which runs from August 1, 2017 – August 14, 2017.

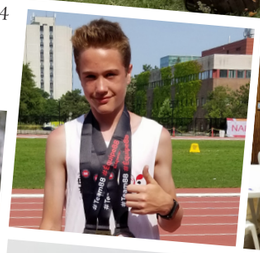
Call (819) 855-3333 or send an email to info@waastooskun.com to book your room today!

1, Aschishtuu Rd, Chisasibi, Quebec J0M 1E0

Photos by Gabriel Rabbitskin



Rabbitskin, meanwhile, is equally proud of the Awashish boys, whom he described as a **double-threat.**



[The older kids] beat the hell out of us! But it made us ***stronger.***" - Sylvester Moar, 14

double-threat. "They're twins, but one is tall and one is shorter. One is better in long distances, one is better in short distances. That has helped them accumulate a lot of medals, having respective events like that – one did well at the longer distances like the 1500, the 400, freestyle. The other was great on the shorter distances: the 50 metre, and the 100 metre."

Rabbitskin hopes Cedric and Caleb Awashish – and all the other Cree youths who participated in the games – will inspire their peers to get involved in sports.

"When they returned from the games, I'm pretty sure they – as well the other participants – are walking around with their NAIG jackets on," Rabbitskin said. "It creates interest in other youths who ask, 'What do I have to do to go to these games?' In swimming, the answer is you have to be in the water every day. We think it's difficult, but when you start to learn the techniques, it becomes easier. If you want to get better, you just have to go in the pool more often."

Moar, for his part, is ready to keep it up. After playing basketball in Waskaganish for three years, he's beginning to think more about his future in the sport.

"I want to try out for a basketball college in the future so I need to join a high school team down south," he explained. "They make it more competitive."

Cree Nation Governance Agreement
signed signed after a decade of negotiation

10 years in the making

Photos and storyby Ben Powless

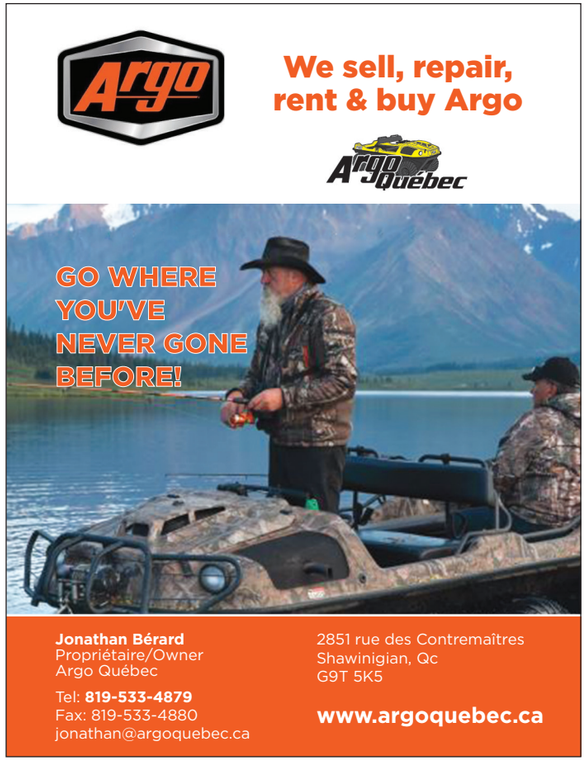
Cree dignitaries and federal government officials gathered on the steps of Parliament Hill to sign the Cree Nation Governance Agreement, capping off a ten year negotiation process that began in 2007.

The agreement signed today comes after both the Governance Agreement and the Cree Constitution were formally approved by each of the Cree First Nations and the Cree Nation Government. The final step was to secure approval from the federal government, which is expected to introduce federal legislation soon to put the agreement into force.

Spirits were high as Elder Kenneth Gilpin welcomed the crowd of dozens to Algonquin territory. Federal NDP MP Romeo Saganash joked, "I've been in this place 6 years, and I've never seen this many Crees on this lawn. There's a lot of power here, even the flag came down," he said, referring to high winds that toppled a Canadian flag at the start of the event.

He urged that "Signings like this could happen every week throughout the land – that's what we need to achieve, not just with the Cree, but with First Nations across Canada. That's my wish."

NISKAMOON
CORPORATION
The Niskamoon Corporation board of directors and staff would like to congratulate the newly elected Grand Chief Abel Bosum and Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull!
All the best in your mandate!
2 Lakeshore Road
Nemaska, Quebec J0Y 3B0
www.niskamoon.org
NISKAMOON CORPORATION



"Signings like this could happen every week throughout the land – that's what we need to achieve, not just with the Cree, but with First Nations across Canada. ***That's my wish."***

- Federal NDP MP Romeo Saganash

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come spoke of the long journey that had led to this point. "The vision has always been for Cree self-governance and self-determination. It is that vision that continues to guide us today. There have been many obstacles, many arguments to forge, and bridges to build. This is reconciliation in action."

"The Governance Agreement removes oversight by the Minister of Indian Affairs, who no longer approves our bylaws or financial statements. We're completely independent, and have secured financial security until 2040. This marks another advance in Cree Nation building and in our nation-to-nation relationship with Canada."

Coon Come also took the opportunity to announce that he would be retiring from public, after a distinguished career of over 40 years that saw him working for both the Cree and all First Nations as the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

The new agreement and constitution would remove federal supervision over Cree governance of their lands, and would remove the need to have certain by-laws approved by the federal minister. The federal minister would also lose the ability to implement third-party administration in the case of financial troubles.

Jurisdiction over the constitution would also remain entirely in Cree hands and not a federal law, meaning that it doesn't require approval by either Québec or Canada.

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett spoke to what the agreement meant from the government's perspective.

"Today's Governance Agreement represents a renewed relationship with Indigenous Peoples. This is a true nation-to-nation effort, based on the principles of sustainable development, partnership, and respect for the traditional way of life of the Cree," she stated.

"It builds on the successes of the Cree Nation by enabling law-making powers on federal Cree community lands that reflect their culture, priorities, and aspirations. I am honoured to stand alongside the Crees of Eeyou Istchee as we advance reconciliation together and celebrate the continued success of the Cree Nation."

The government also committed to providing a payment of $200 million that was agreed upon in the 2008 New Relationship Agreement shortly after this agreement is passed federally.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director for the Cree Nation Government, was optimistic about today's signing. "The Governance Agreement gives us greater autonomy, financial security, and a recognition of the right to self-determination. It removes the minister and federal government from our lives. Now the chiefs and councils are accountable to the people for the funding that they get."

However, he admitted that the government didn't always agree to the funding mechanisms proposed. "When we started negotiations, the government wanted cutbacks. We resisted that. They also wanted to tax our people. We resisted that."

At the conclusion of the signing agreement, Grand Chief Coon Come and Minister Bennet completed a gift exchange. Coon Come presented minister Bennet with a pair of snowshoes and a history of the Cree people on DVD.

Minister Bennet presented Coon Come with a stained glass piece of art depicting a goose, as well as a personal gift owing to his announced retirement of a wooden carved goose statue.

"The vision has always been for Cree self-governance and self-determination. ***It is that vision*** *that continues to guide us today."*

- Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come

Cree First Nation of Waswanipi

Congratulations to our newly elected leaders of the Cree Nation!

The Cree First Nation of Waswanipi wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the new Grand Chief Abel Bosum and new Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull on their elections to lead the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Cree Nation Government!

We look forward in working together to reach our common goals and serve the people of Waswanipi and all Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee!

All the best to both of you on this new great endeavour!

A **personal tribute** to Dr. Matthew Coon Come

by Abel Bosum

Opinion

It is a most humbling experience to have been chosen by the people of Eeyou/Eenou Istchee to serve you as your next Grand Chief.

It is also profoundly humbling to realize that I will be following in the footsteps of the truly great leaders of the Cree Nation who have guided us, fought on our behalf, and given of themselves for over 40 years. Following upon the leadership of Dr. Matthew Coon Come, I know that I will have very big shoes to fill.

It was under Matthew's leadership that the Cree Nation waged a monumental battle against further hydroelectric development on our traditional Cree territory. It was under Matthew's leadership that we fought a mighty battle to preserve our Cree rights in the context of possible Quebec secession. It was under Matthew's leadership that we fought a bitter campaign against forestry practices, which ignored our Cree hunters and trappers. And it was under Matthew's leadership that we forged a new governance regime that replaced the old, antiquated and undemocratic Municipalité de Baie-James (MBJ) and created a new regime that extended our Cree jurisdiction over larger parts of our traditional territory.

When I was Chief of the community of Oujé-Bougoumou, we could always count on Matthew's support, particularly in those very difficult times when, in order to move forward with our vision of having our own village, we established road blockades and took other dramatic measures to have our voices heard. Matthew was always our reliable champion.

Matthew and I go back quite a long time. We attended residential school together and experienced the tragedy that was the Indian Residential School system. It was there – at the La Tuque Residential School – that we both, perhaps individually, decided that we would devote our lives to turning things around so that institutions such as those would never operate again, and that the underlying relations between Canada and Indigenous peoples would need to change.

There are things we learned together at La Tuque – some lessons – which became useful in our individual journeys. We learned, for instance, about knowing when to pick a fight. One evening while at the La Tuque school, Matthew and I carried out a midnight raid of the kitchen. We were both hungry and decided to try to make ourselves something to eat. We managed to find bread and peanut butter and quickly put together a nice thick peanut butter sandwich. So as not to get caught, we were in a hurry and only made the one sandwich. Unfortunately, each of us thought we were entitled to the sandwich, and rather than dividing it, we wrestled over it. To this day, I do not remember who eventually got the sandwich, but what I learned was that we should have gotten out of the kitchen before deciding whose sandwich it was. I think this may have been my first lesson in Cree unity.

Matthew and I also learned a bit about fundraising. After the La Tuque Indian Residential School, we both attended Philemon Wright School in what is now called Gatineau. At that time, it was called Hull. On the weekends, we would sometimes go to Parliament Hill on the Ottawa side of the river. We invented our own very special way of earning some spending money. At the site of the eternal flame in front of Parliament, and when there were many tourists around, we tossed pennies into the pool surrounding the flame. When asked by tourists what we were doing we replied that this was a wishing well and the more money people put into the pool the greater the likelihood that wishes would be fulfilled. Of course, after the tourists threw their coins into the pool, and after the tourists turned around, Matthew and I went in after the coins. We learned that to secure funds, we needed to think outside the box.

We are each of us, now, carrying on with our individual journeys. Matthew's career has been extraordinarily challenging and rewarding. He has made major contributions wherever he has been. The Cree Nation, in particular, will always be grateful for the sacrifices, the incredibly hard work and the passion he has shown toward improving the lives of our people.

I am proud to count Matthew as a friend, a colleague, a teacher. I will always treasure his advice and his wisdom. May I be given the strength and the wisdom to carry on in his footsteps.

Meegwetch Matthew.
Abel Nii.

ᐊᓂᐯᑯᐊᓕᓱᐧᐃᐣ ᓄᐢᑎᐦᐅᐊᓕᓱᐧᐃᐣ ᐁ ᓀᑕᒪᑐᑦᑦᐢ (ᐊᓕᓱᐧᐃ ᐊᔨᐢ)
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

ᐊᓕᓱᐧᐃ ᑎᐯᓐᑎᑲᓂᐢ
Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

ELECTION OF GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRPERSON OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EEYOU ISTCHEE) AND CREE NATION GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2017.

TO ALL CREE BENEFICIARIES OF EEYOU ISTCHEE
The Chief Electoral Officer for the Cree Nation Government hereby certifies the following results in respect of the election for the Office of Grand Chief/Chairperson.

Total number of ballots cast: 5647

Grand Chief/Chairperson

Candidates	Total Votes	Percentages
Abel Bosum	3157	56%
Rodney Mark	2490	44%

In accordance with Article 26 of an Act Respecting the Cree Nation Government, R.S.Q. c. G-1.031 which specifies that the Grand Chief /Chairperson must be elected by an absolute majority vote (fifty percent + one), and in accordance with the results of the Election of July 24, 2017, hereto,

Dr. Abel Bosum has secured **3157** or **56%** of the valid votes cast on the run-off Election of July 24, 2017;

Therefore, pending any requests for a review of the standings and process, which must be received within a period of five (5) days, I hereby declare that based on the Results of the elections of July 24, 2017, in my capacity as Chief Electoral Officer of the Cree Nation Government **Dr. Abel Bosum** elected as **Grand Chief/Chairperson** of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and Cree Nation Government for a term of Four (4) Years.

And I have given this notice in Chisasibi on this 25th day of July 2017.

Robin Pachanos
Chief Electoral Officer

Email: rpachanos@cngelections.ca
Tel: 418-748-5498

ᐊᓂᐯᑯᐊᓕᓱᐧᐃᐣ ᓄᐢᑎᐦᐅᐊᓕᓱᐧᐃᐣ ᐁ ᓀᑕᒪᑐᑦᑦᐢ (ᐊᓕᓱᐧᐃ ᐊᔨᐢ)
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

ᐊᓕᓱᐧᐃ ᑎᐯᓐᑎᑲᓂᐢ
Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

ELECTION OF DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF/VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EEYOU ISTCHEE) AND CREE NATION GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2017.

TO ALL CREE BENEFICIARIES OF EEYOU ISTCHEE
The Chief Electoral Officer for the Cree Nation Government hereby certifies the following results in respect of the election for the Office of Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairperson.

Total number of ballots cast: 5669

Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairperson

Candidates	Total Votes	Percentages
Mandy Gull	2933	52%
John Matoush	2736	48%

In accordance with Article 26 of an Act Respecting the Cree Nation Government, R.S.Q. c. G-1.031 In accordance with Article 26 of an Act Respecting the Cree Nation Government, R.S.Q. c. G-1.031, which specifies that the Deputy Grand Chief /Vice-Chairperson must be elected by an absolute majority vote (fifty percent + one), and in accordance with the results of the Election of July 24, 2017 hereto,

Ms. Mandy Gull has secured **2933** or **52%** of the valid votes cast on the run-off Election of July 24, 2017;

Therefore, pending any requests for a review of the standings and process, which must be received within period of five (5) days, I hereby declare that based on the Results of the elections of July 24, 2017, in my capacity as Chief Electoral Officer of the Cree Nation Government, **Ms. Mandy Gull** elected as **Deputy Grand Chief/Vice Chairperson** of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and Cree Nation Government for a term of Four (4) Years.

And I have given this notice in Chisasibi on this 25th day of July 2017.

Robin Pachanos
Chief Electoral Officer

Email: rpachanos@cngelections.ca
Tel: 418-748-5498

telehealth

Cree health services make **'major' leap with new technology**

by Amy German | Photos by Tatiana Philiptchenko

The new healthcare services available to Cree patients through high-speed internet is not only saving the system money but bringing in essential specialist services that were rarely available in remote northern communities.

According to Chisasibi Hospital director Philippe Lubino, who is also the interim Chair of the National Telehealth Best Practices Special Interest Group of Canada's Health Informatics Association, access to specialists who can see a patient virtually through telehealth has made a world of difference for Cree patients.

Using the example of TeleObsterics, Lubino said Chisasibi patients are now able to receive prenatal screenings in Cree territory via videoconference with an obstetrician in Val-d'Or while a medical imaging technician performs an ultrasound at the local hospital.

> According to Lubino, having this service in Chisasibi has **changed the lives** of coastal women.

"During this consultation, under the direct supervision of the obstetrician, a medical imaging technician performs an ultrasound, directly interpreted by the obstetrician who receives live the images of the ultrasound," said Lubino. "At the moment, women with high-risk pregnancy from all coastal communities have access to the service."

PMC extends our congratulations
to the new **Grand Chief Abel Bosum** and **Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull.**

May you have great success in continuing to build the health and prosperity of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee in the coming years.

Dan Hamilton, Vice President

PMC
Advisors in Indigenous Renewal

Performance Management Consultants

Helping to build capacity in First Nations for over 20 years

858 Bank Street, Suite 109
Ottawa, ON, K1S 3W3
613-234-2020 ext. 22

pmcrenewal.com

Inland Cree will soon have the same access once the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB) purchases an ultrasound machine for Mistissini and hires technicians to operate it.

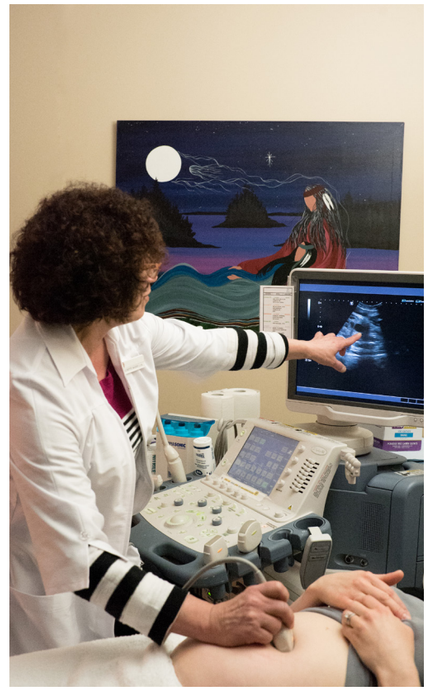
According to Lubino, having this service in Chisasibi has changed the lives of coastal women. This way they don't have to miss work or find a babysitter. The whole family benefits because mom is not gone for long and gets support from her partner and other family nearby.

"Women with high-risk pregnancy from all the coastal communities benefit from the service in Chisasibi instead of going to Val-d'Or. For women from Whapmagoostui, Eastmain, Wemindji and Waskaganish, even though it is not their home community, they have the comfort of remaining on the territory," said Lubino.

The Tele-Health program has been able to save around $85,000 in the last two years alone, according to data provided by the CBHSSJB.

Services in the telehealth program include wheelchair adaptation, internal medicine, dermatology, wound care, psychiatry, child psychiatry, cardiology, speech therapy, pneumonology and oncology. Lubino said that there are even scenarios that are not available to patients down south.

"I remember a child who needed to be assessed by a child psychiatrist. Not only the parents, but also the child's teacher, were able to attend the consultation with him," he explained. "This is something that would rarely happen down south and that would have been unimaginable without telehealth: imagine flying the child, his parents and his teacher to Montreal for a few days. This experience sums up for me a lot of the power, impact and opportunity that telehealth represents for our population."



*We are also **actively looking** at new ways to provide care, closer to the patients.*

- Philippe Lubino

Before telehealth, Lubino added, patients with mental health issues would only see psychiatrists during their two to four visits to each community. Or the patient would have to be flown to Montreal.

"This is major," said Lubino. "Our patients can have a better continuum of care which amounts to a better quality of care. As for all telehealth services, we can also keep the patient in his or her community, which is also a relief for the whole family that can continue to surround the patient instead of having to designate an escort who would have the sole responsibility for the care of the client during the trip to Montreal."

The health board also provides remote pre-assessment, which can avoid unnecessary transfer to Montreal in acute cases.

"We are actively looking at new ways to provide care, closer to the patients," Lubino concluded. "Initiatives in remote patient monitoring especially for chronic diseases are very interesting for our population. The use of new phone-based applications have a lot of potential for our patients, allowing them to be more involved in monitoring themselves and allowing them to take more control of their own health."

ᐊᓂᔨᐅᑲᒪᒋᐤ
Aanischaaukamikw
CREE CULTURAL INSTITUTE
INSTITUT CULTUREL CRI

"Congratulations to our newly elected Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum and Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull!"

Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute

“ ᓂᓯᑭᔨᔨᑎᒧᐎᓐᐊᓭᓴᐤ ᓴᓄᑲ ᐊᓴᐦᑭᐦᐃᑲ ᐅᓴᓴᓂᓴᐦᓂᐦᐅᐦᐃᐧᐣ ᑎᐦᑎ ᑭᓰᐅᑭᐦᐃᑲᓴᐤ ᐊᐃᐱᐣ ᐳᓯᒪ, ᑭᐢᐦᐃᐧᐣ ᐃᓯᑦᔨᓭᐎᐧᐣ ᑭᓰᐅᑭᐦᐃᑲᓴᐤ ᒪᓂᑎ ᓭᐅᑭ ᐧᐃᐦᑦ! ”

ᐊᓂᔨᐅᑭᓯᓂᐤ

“Eeyou Istchee’s regional cultural institute: Realizing the vision of our Elders to maintain our culture and language, we are a museum, library, archives, research hub and an education institute.”

THE CREE MINERAL EXPLORATION BOARD
CONSEIL CRI SUR L'EXPLORATION MINÉRALE

ROCK COMPETITION – GO DIG AND HAVE FUN!

General Category
1st place: $1,500
2nd place: $1,000
3rd place: $500

Prosepector Category
One prize of $2,000

The Cree Mineral Exploration Board's Rock Competition to reward new mineral discoveries in Eeyou Istchee

Requirements:
New discovery
Sample must be the size of a fist
Sample must be located on a map
Complete the application form

Deadline and shipping:
CMEB assumes the analysis expenses of the participating samples
The contest ends on October 31
Shipping is at participant's expense

Do not forget: Hints on the ground: look for rusty surfaces
Hints after breaking: sample metallic minerals

NAME _____
PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____
COMMUNITY _____
SIGNATURE _____

SAMPLE LOCATION PLACE NAME _____
MAP _____
GPS COORDINATES _____ E _____ N
SAMPLE COLLECTED FROM ☐ Shore Line ☐ Island ☐ Stream Bank ☐ River Bank ☐ Lake Side ☐ Mountain ☐ Other

Send to: CMEB 16 Beaver Road, Box 210, Wemindji, QC, Canada JOM 1LO Tel: 819-978-0264 ext. 327 Fax: 819-978-3834 E-mail: youceflarbi@creenet.com

ADVERTORIAL

Hydlo and FRIENDS Online

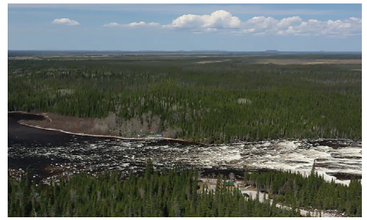
Monitoring the changing landscape along the Rupert

E nâkataweyihtanûch tân e ispayich yâyeu Wâskâhîkanishîu sîpîhch

To watch the new video, visit **www.hydloandfriends.com**

Along the Rupert, a team assesses how the reduced flow affects the landscape. They analyze landscape components and the visual impact of hydraulic structures and the seeding of the banks. They also study what Crees and visitors think of the landscape.

Robert Capassisit
Field worker, Nemaska



Smokey Hill

Ian Diamond
Photographer, Waskaganish

Each month, a new video will be added to hydloandfriends.com. To learn more, listen to the Hydlo and Friends radio show on JBCCS. Its hosts, Luke MacLeod and Luc Duquette, discuss the environmental follow-up activities related to the Eastmain-Sarcelle-Rupert complex, as well as the concerns of land users with regard to Hydro-Québec’s facilities and activities.

Next show:
Wednesday, August 16,
at 8:00 a.m.

Congratulations
to the new Grand Chief!

The Société de Développement de la Baie-James would like to warmly congratulate Mr. Abel Bosum on his election as Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees, and wishes him every success in his new position.

Société de développement de la Baie-James
Québec

Washkahagun Wechihitowin

Whapmagoostui launches **'Helping Homes'** to address housing crisis

by Amy German

In response to Whapmagoostui's severe housing shortage, Chief Louisa Wynne has turned to North Bay, Ontario-based SuperSHELL Homes Corporation.

Chief Wynne was in North Bay July 19 to announce the launch of the Washkahagun Wechihitowin ("Helping Homes") project along with North Bay Mayor Al McDonald, SuperSHELL Homes co-owner Ross MacLean, and project liaison Peter Wynne of the Moose Cree First Nation.

Whapmagoostui is committing to a pilot project to help low-income families purchase affordable, sustainable homes and to minimize diesel-fuel consumption within the region. At the same time, the project will train community members and new home owners to construct and maintain superior energy-efficient Net Zero Ready housing using SuperSHELL's building system and skills training program.

The project was initiated by the Moose Cree First Nation in partnership with SuperSHELL, and is modeled on the Habitat for Humanity program.

"We started talking with Great Whale about their housing problem and after much discussion said, 'Let's try this project'," explained Peter Wynne. "We got SuperSHELL on board and now we are getting other corporations to get involved."

Peter Wynne said the goal is to build two 1400-square-feet homes in the

CREE NATION OF
WEMINDJI

Congratulations to the new leaders of the Grand Council of the Crees Eeyou Istchee!

The Chief and Council of the Cree Nation of Wemindji would like to congratulate **Abel Bosum**, the new Grand Chief and **Mandy Gull**, the new Deputy Grand Chief.

All the best in your new positions.
Congratulations!

CHIBOUGAMAU

LATITUDE NORDIQUE / NORDIC LATITUDE

En mon nom et au nom des membres du conseil, je tiens à féliciter **Monsieur Abel Bosum**, Grand Chef et **Madame Mandy Gull**, chef adjointe du Grand Conseil des Cris (GCC). Il me fera plaisir de collaborer prochainement avec vous pour contribuer à l'essor de notre région.

I would like to personally and on behalf of the council, congratulate **Dr. Abel Bosum**, new Grand Chief and **Ms. Mandy Gull**, new Deputy Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Cree's Eeyou Istchee. It will be my pleasure to work with you in a near future and contribute to the development of our region.

ᓂ ᐊᒋᑊᓷ ᑭᓴ ᐅᑎᒪᖏᓂᔪᓷ ᓂᔪᑦᑭᓴᑎᒧᔨᐊᑊᓭᓴ ᐊᐃᐱᓪ ᐳᔪᓭ, ᖏ ᐅᓴᑦᔪᓪ ᑭᓵᐅᑎᒪᖏᓭ ᐊᑊᓴ ᓂᔪᑦᑭᓴᑎᒧᔨᐊᑊᓭᓴ ᑭᓴ ᐊᐃᐱᓪᓭᓴᑊᓭᓴ ᓄᖏᑎᐅᐃᐱᓪᓭᓴ ᐊᑊᓴ ᐊᑎᒋᓂᓭᓴ (ᐃᐱᓪᓭᓴ ᐊᓴᑎ)ₓ ᓂᒥᓴᐱᖏᑕ ᓓ ᑎ ᐊᐃᓓᑎᑦᒥᑕᓭ ᐅᑕᖏ ᐃᐱᓪ ᐃᐱᖏᐃᓪᓭᓴᑕᖏᖐᓭ ᐊᑐ ᓓ ᑎ ᓄᑦᑕᒥᖏ ᑭᓴᖏ ᓓ ᑎ ᐊᐃᖏᐃᓪᓭᓴᑕᖏᖐᓭ ᐊᑐ ᓓ ᑎ ᓄᑎᐱᐃᓭᓴᑕᖏᖐᓭ ᐅᑕᖏ ᐃᐱᓪᓭᓴᑕᖏᖐᓭ ᐊᑐ ᓓ ᑎ

"Get Ready for Home Ownership"

Cree Nation Tour 2017-2018

Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie
CAPITAL WORKS & SERVICES

Presented by the Cree Nation Government - Capital Works Services.
With **Lawrence P. Katapatuk**, Regional Housing Planner, and **Ryan Rice**, Housing Industry Specialist.

We offer information sessions in each community of Eeyou Istchee. Come see us!

Door prizes, promo items giveaway and refreshments at each session.

June 27-28, 2017	Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation	Capassisit Lodge	6:00 – 9:00pm
July 11-12, 2017	Whapmagoostui First Nation	Whapmagoostui Sports Complex	6:30 – 9:30pm
August 15-16, 2017	**Cree Nation of Nemaska**	**Recreation Hall**	**6:30 – 9:30pm**
September 19-20, 2017	Cree Nation of Chisasibi	Mitchuap Auditorium	6:30 – 9:30pm
October 17-18, 2017	Cree Nation of Waswanipi	*To be confirmed	TBD
November 14-15, 2017	Cree Nation of Wemindji	*To be confirmed	TBD
December 12-13, 2017	Waskaganish First Nation	Kanio Kashee Lodge	6:30 – 9:30pm
January 16-17, 2018	Cree Nation of Eastmain	*To be confirmed	TBD
February 20-21, 2018	Washaw Sibi	*To be confirmed	TBD
March 20-21, 2018	Cree Nation of Mistissini	*To be confirmed	TBD

Call us for more information - 819-856-5234 or email housingplanner@cngov.ca

Regional Radio Show on Housing

from the Capital Works and Services Department / Housing and ownership in the Cree Nation

Wednesday August 16, 2017 from 12:15 to 12:45

Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie
CAPITAL WORKS & SERVICES

Your host:
Lawrence P. Katapatuk
Regional Housing Planner

Join us on JBCCS
(James Bay Cree Communications Society)
every third Wednesday of every month

LIVE from Nemaska

We need community members' input, suggestions and comments concerning housing in the Cree Nation.

Congratulations to the new Grand Chief Abel Bosum and the new Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull of the Grand Council of the Crees Eeyou Istchee - Cree Nation Government.

A new era for Eeyou Istchee has been attained with the signing of the Cree Governance Agreement, thanks to the many efforts of those who were at the helm before. It is now your turn to continue what they have started and lead Eeyou Istchee to its future. On behalf of all the partners and staff of the BDO Montreal office, we wish you every success in your new duties and will support you with any needs you may have.

Assurance | Accounting | Tax | Advisory

514-931-0841
www.bdo.ca

BDO

Old-school skills

Sportsmanship on display at **Big Rock Fishing Derby**

by Joshua Grant

This year's Big Rock Fishing Derby, held on Lake Mistissini July 14-16, posed a challenging twist to contestants. For the first time ever, fish-finder and GPS technologies that have become so common in the sport were forbidden.

"This year was very short notice and it was also very different," said derby director Guy Poulin. "It was interesting to see who the best fishermen were without any of the technology. Turned out that the fishermen enjoyed the challenge."

Poulin said that despite the late start organizing this year's derby, everything came together smoothly in the end with security in place and fishing getting underway at 6 am on each of the three days. He noted that organizers and participants enjoyed excellent weather throughout the entire event and said there were plenty of smiles and lots of action.

"We saw happy fishermen throughout the weekend," he said. "Everyone was running to and from the scale to be able to release their fish alive, as it is a catch-and-release derby."

Poulin was pleased to share that this year's Big Rock Fishing Derby brought out the best in the people who competed and demonstrated what the fishing competitions are all about – sportsmanship. He said that throughout the event exceptional sportsmanship was displayed by all, citing one story as a prime example.

"When there's a derby, there are always accusations of cheating but this year was different," he said. "A fellow named Nathaniel from Mistissini caught a seven-pounder [walleye] but had already logged his catches for the day. There were three other fishermen in the boat with him and rather than giving it to a friend, he threw it back in. The sportsmanship was very good this year."

Impressive stuff considering how much money was on the line. This year's big winner was René Picard, who took first place in the walleye category with a total weight of 158.91 pounds and went home with a cool $20,000.

Rounding out the top five in the walleye category were Sylvain Ménard (153.84 lbs), Abel Mianscum (143.16 lbs), Lawrence Petawabano (142.7 lbs) and Joanne Sam (140.41 lbs).

The biggest walleye catch of the weekend went to Jerome Happyjack, who earned $5000 for his 7.65-pound, 28.5-inch long snag. Happyjack won the daily prize on Day 3 with the same catch, while Leslie Tent and Sylvain Ménard won largest walleye on Days 1 and 2 respectively.

In the pike category, Abel Mianscum's 16.37 lbs catch won first place and $3000 as well as Day 2's daily prize and the biggest pike overall at the weekend derby. Finishing second to fifth overall for pike were Didier Germain, Philip M. Shecapio, Robert Jimiken Jr. and Wejawabiano Neacappo. Shecapio and Neacappo were the daily pike winners on Days 1 and 2.

Your goals and accomplishments are impressive.

Your Annual Report
should be the same

Beesum Communications works with you to create beautifully & professionally designed reports that clearly present your goals and accomplishments, while reflecting your vision and values as an organization. **Contact us now to receive a free quote.**

BEESUM communications

514-272-3077 | info@beesum.com | beesum.com

Road trip for **dummies**

by Sonny Orr

Rez Notes

Among the biggest awareness-raising changes in our lives has been access to the rest of the world by highway. It's quite amazing for those who were cut off from the rest of the world by isolation for most of their lives and then have a road carved out of the wilderness right to their doorstep, where once there were only foot trails and portages. When the James Bay Highway was built back in the 1970s, there was a surge in tourism travel from the north to the south. Yes, we actually became tourists for the first time.

The great thing about the JBH was that there wasn't any real police presence and the only risk of ignoring the speed limit signs was the possibility of not reaching the next gas station. In those early road trips, the humungous tanks and voracious high cubic inch engines meant power. Enough power to race to the corner store and back, and then for a little spin around town, before returning to the gas station to fill up for the night. Those were the days when a gallon cost an outrageous 75 cents – or about 17 cents a litre. We never imagined that the petroleum industry would one day have a chokehold on the world and force us to buy more efficient engines measured in cubic centimetres. Ah… the 454 4-barrel hemi-supercharged Duster, where are you now?

In the late 1970s, the average family vehicle was a GM Suburban or a pickup truck. Vans and sedan cars were rare. For safety precautions, every vehicle had to have the mandatory shovel, axe, chain, flares, pumps, spare, first-aid kit and water before we even thought of travelling the world's longest private road. My uncle had a Ford LTD, which was great on the highway as we matched the speedometer (in miles) against the signs (in kilometres) so we traveled from Fort George to Matagami in three-and-a-half hours.

Today, a little voice – not the one in my head – tells me to twist and turn like a madman on steroids through tough traffic situations in downtown Montreal while road rage slowly builds as we creep along congested roadways. After driving for more than 14 hours, we're in a hurry to check into some internet-recommended hotel booked just minutes earlier. Sophisticatedly entering a nice hotel lobby and brandishing a prepaid credit card signifies that you really don't need credit to get a room, that's for snobby people who can't afford cash anyways.

After checking in, make sure the kids – if there are any – get enough pool time to wear themselves out and settle for a pay-per-view movie in the room. The adults sneak out on the promise of returning with more goodies and head for the nearest open mall or entertainment central. Kids are more agreeable after breakfast so sleep on little people! See you at the complimentary breakfast after another morning dip!

We northern travelers like to kid our southern neighbours about how barren our home is, except for the occasional marauding polar bear. And yes, igloos do melt in the summer. With my luck, I always bump into a tourist who doesn't know anything about Canada and I wonder why they would leave their tropical paradise to venture north to be devoured by pesky mosquitoes. I learn that our mosquitoes are quite small and that we have virtually no venomous animals. Oh well, I guess being a tourist meeting another tourist does have interesting exchanges about the meaning of climate change and whose native animals are deadlier.

Aside from travelling, I'm glad to hear that the aging James Bay Highway will soon be pothole free and the promise of breaking land speed records will become a reality again. This time around, no huge sedans to barrel around in, just frugal zippy cars that have the gall to go the entire route without meeting a gas-station attendant and getting price-sticker shocked will become the new reality. I can't wait!

Nothing like a **great cup of coffee**

by Xavier Kataquapit

I love a great cup of coffee. Not just a good cup of coffee, but a great one. If you have ever travelled to Italy, France or Spain then you have been spoiled and you realize what a great cup of coffee is.

As a born-and-bred Cree from the James Bay coast, I grew up on plain orange pekoe tea, normally served with canned milk and plenty of sugar. When I attended high school in Timmins, I was introduced to our regular northern Ontario coffee. It was more potent than any cup of tea and I was quickly addicted. However, I still hold onto my tea drinking roots and have my orange pekoe at the cottage or when I visit the wilderness and drink coffee in town.

My favourite brew is cappuccino. It is made of double espresso coffee and hot milk with the surface topped with foamed milk. It is not easy to make as you need an espresso machine and a milk frother. I like this coffee because of its rich taste and smoothness. Sometimes I will have an espresso, which is a small shot of coffee in a tiny cup. I like that small amount of caffeine as opposed to the huge amount of liquid found in most regular coffees available in standard restaurants like McDonald's or Tim Hortons. I don't have to make so many visits to the washroom when I drink a tiny espresso.

Sadly, for many of us who have been spoiled by visits to Europe and major North American cities, these specialty coffee shops are not common in our northern cities. Although restaurants serve good coffee and Timmy's and McDonald's provide a decent cup of coffee, nothing beats a great coffee served up by a barista who knows how to use an expensive Italian espresso machine, a good frother, while using high quality fair trade or direct trade beans which are freshly ground in a premium grinder on site for every cup.

In the past decade or so I have noticed a few European-style coffee shops pop up in northern Ontario. In Timmins, there is Christopher's Coffee House (which serves good specialty coffees, sweets and sandwiches) and Vicky D'Amours Bakery (well known for her pastries). In New Liskeard, there's Chat Noir Books & Games (which is more of a bookstore that has good coffee). Sudbury, Thunder Bay and North Bay are bigger centres so they have several specialty coffee shops.

You can imagine my surprise and delight when the Plum Blossom Bakery Cafe opened here in little old Kirkland Lake last winter. My friend Mike and I had been missing great coffee and pastries that we had become accustomed to in the city. So when Steve and Sumei opened up their coffee shop in the Kirkland Lake's downtown we were hoping for the best.

On our first visit we were happy to find a cozy and tastefully decorated coffee shop that reminded us of many we had visited in Italy and France. The best part was that these two young entrepreneurs knew how to brew great coffee in many varieties and offered other specialty drinks including teas. What we did not expect was Sumei's education in the culinary arts; she is a trained pastry chef. She has worked in a variety of premium cafes and restaurants in Montreal and Toronto. Steve, who has a background as a diesel engine mechanic, recently trained as a barista. It was hard to believe that a big-city/European-style specialty cafe had landed in the middle of Kirkland Lake.

Mike and I have come to know Steve and Sumei very well during our regular visits to savour a great cup of coffee and one of Sumei's amazing cheesecakes, wonderful made-from-scratch cakes, parfaits and a host of other delights. Steve and Sumei use only the very best, from the costly well-sourced high-grade coffee bean to the fresh ingredients for the daily sweets. These two are incredibly hard workers who dedicate most of their time to produce a high-quality specialty coffee shop in a northern wilderness town. Lucky us.

Who knows? Maybe some day Sumei will try her hand at bannock. I have no doubt that if she did I would end up eating the very best, the most sophisticated bannock to be served in the north. Thanks to people like Steve and Sumei our northern cities and towns are becoming a little friendlier and interesting with a touch of the best a big city or a trip to Europe has to offer.

TAWICH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
DÉVELOPPEMENT CORPORATION

Congratulations to Grand Chief Abel Bosum and Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull!

Tawich Development Corporation wishes the newly elected team the best success in their new term.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR SAFER AND ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

You have a project that could help make your community a better place?

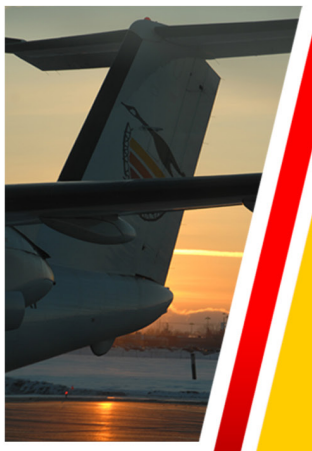
Through these funds, the DOJCS (Department of Justice and Correctional Services) provides financial assistance to community members willing to implement initiatives that facilitate and improve the administration of justice for the Crees across Eeyou Istchee.

Be engaged. Make a difference.

For details, please visit the DOJCS website at: http://creejusticefunds.ca or phone (418) 923-2661, ext. 1180.

Congratulations to newly elected Grand Chief Abel Bosum and Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull.

Air Creebec would like to thanks former Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and former Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark for their years of service on behalf of the Cree Nation.



35 ANS YEARS

airCreebec

FOR INFORMATION, RESERVATIONS OR CHARTERS

1-800-567-6567

WWW.AIRCREEBEC.CA

***certain conditions may apply.*